(c) (i) The exchange is already commissioned on 6-8-93. (ii) It is too early to quantify the incremental revenue expected to be earned through this Electronic Exchange.

Induction of 6 Switching Technologies

3658. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experts Panel has recommended the induction of 6 Switching Technologies;

(b) if so, the details of the 6 Switching Technologies;

(c) what is the manner in which the induction of new switching technologies will effect public sector units like ITI;

(d) whether any modernisation programme will be undertaken to increase the viability of ITI and other Dublic sector units; and

(e) if so, the full detils thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, for large capacity exchanges (more than 10.000 lines).

(b) The following five technologies have so far been validated: FETEX 150 of Fujitsu, Japan; EWSD of Siemens, Germany; AXE 10 Ericsson, Sweden; No. 5 ESS of AT&T, USA; OCB 283 of Alcatel, France.

(c) ITI will be competing with other manufacturers in the liberalised economy according to market driven force.

(d) Modernisation has already been undertaken by ITI, which will ensure viability of current technology. However, the viability will depend on the production volume and price.

(e) ITI has signed collaboration agreement with M/s. Alcatel France for the latest OCB-283 CSN switch of the E-10B family of Digital Switching systems which has recently been validated as approved by DOT for induction into the network.

Auction of Slots for Mobile Phones

3659. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to auction slots for the grant of franchise to operate mobile/cellular phones;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal;

(c) what are the reasons for not auctioning such slots to the highest bidder on certain conditionalities; and

(d) what is the state of the pending proposals to introduce cellular phones in the telecom sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Some suggestions to auction slots for grant of franchise to operate mobile/cellular phones in cities, other than four Metro. Cities of Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras have been received, which are under consideration. Final decision in this regard is yet to be taken. Regarding four Metro cities tenders have been invited and evaluated 8 bidders have been provisionally selected.

(d) Some of the unsuccessful bidders filed a civil writ petition in the High Court of Delhi. The judgment has since been delivered and is under study. Final decision in this regard is yet to be taken.

Tariff of Phone Calls fixed in Consultation with BICP

3660. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to consult the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) in the fixation of tariff for phone calls and other services of Telecom Department;

(b) if so, what are the details of this proposal;

(c) what other steps or suggestions are under consideration of Government to

evolve a proper, and fair tariff structure for telecom services;

(d) whether Government will invite suggestions from the public to evolve a proper system of price fixation; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply for (a) above.

(c) BICP was once earlier consulted on this matter. Their recommendations which have been accepted are under implementation.

(d) We do not invite such suggestions. However, suggestions received from public, consumer groups and industry are taken into account before fixation of tariffs.

(e) The Telecom Tariffs are based not only on the costs of providing the services but also on other factors like cross-subsidisation in respect of concessions to the press, to the educational institutions and telecom services in rural areas etc.

Temporary Telephone Connections Sanctioned in Punjab

3661. SHRI GHUFRAM AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of temporary telephone connections sanctioned in Punjab Telecom Circle during the last one year, district-wise on medical or other grounds;

(b) what is the number of extension to temporary connection granted during this period;

(c) what is the number of recommendations received from Hon'ble M.P's for sanction /extension of temporary telephone connections during the last one year in Punjab Circle; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to issue directions to ensure that requests received from Hon'ble M.Ps in this regard are disposed of favourably in an expeditious manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sir, the number of temporary telephone connections sanctioned in Punjab Telecom Circle during the last one year as on 31-7-93 S.S.A. (Telecom district) wise on medical or other grounds is as under:

SSA (Telecom Distt)	No. of cases
(a) Amritsar	80
(b) Ludhiana	97
(c) Jalandhar	350
(d) Chandigarh	108
(e) Bhatinda	23
(f) Hoshiarpur	32
(g) Pathankot	15
(h) Sangrur	31
(i) Patiala	99
(j) Ferozepur	86
TOTAL	861

(b) The number of extension to temporary connections granted during this period is 790.

(c) The number of recommendations received from Hon'ble MPs for sanction/ extension of temporary telephone connections during the list one year in Punjab Circle is 5-

(d) Request received from Hon'ble M.Ps in *this, regard* are disposed of favourably in case of technically feasible cases, provided the request confirms to the revised guidelines issued for temporary telephone connections.

टेलिफोन संबंधी शिकायतों और टेलीफोन में आई खराबी के लिए टेलीफोन सं० 198 पर उपलब्ध सेवा का कार्यकरण

3662. श्री ईश दत्त यादव : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :